

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
ACCESS TO INFORMATION CONTAINED IN	)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
MENTAL HEALTH CASE FILES	)	NO. 96-007
_____	)	

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 36-509, the policy of this Court regarding mental health files has been modified as follows:

1. The Clerk/Court shall disclose only the following information:
  - a. The fact that a mental health file exists (or does not exist) for any named individual.
  - b. The number of that file.
  - c. Any scheduled hearing date.
  - d. The time and place of the hearing and the name of the judicial officer assigned to preside at that hearing.
2. The Court docket will also remain public and any information on the docket may be disclosed by the Clerk.
3. Any other information or access to any mental health file shall be disclosed only to the following persons or entities:
  - a. The patient.
  - b. The patient's attorney.
  - c. The patient's court-appointed guardian or conservator.
  - d. The State Department of Corrections in cases where prisoners confined to the state prison are patients in the state hospital on authorized transfers either by voluntary admission or by order of the Court.
  - e. Persons authorized by order of the Presiding Probate/Mental Health Judge or in that Judge's absence or disability, any other judge designated by the Presiding Judge of the County.

If the Clerk or Court staff is uncertain whether a person requesting information or

access fits within one of the above categories, the Clerk or Court staff should refer that person to the Presiding Probate/Mental Health Judge.

This order is retroactive and specifically applies to all existing mental health files.

DATED this 23rd day of January, 1996.

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Robert D. Myers, Presiding Judge

Original filed with the Clerk of the Court

cc: Hon. Pamela J. Franks, Presiding Judge, Probate/Mental Health Department